

The Mitchell Capital

THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 1910.

THE PACKERS AND THE COST OF MEAT.

Attorney-General Jackson of Kansas has brought suit against the Armour and Swift packing companies, asking that each be fined \$25,000 for forming an illegal combination to raise prices. They are members of the Kansas City Produce Exchange and it is claimed that the exchange fixes arbitrarily the prices of poultry, butter, eggs and other farm produce, to the disadvantage of both the producer and the consumer. No doubt cold storage plays an important part in the plan of the packers, which is to buy at low prices in time of large supply and sell at large prices in time of limited supply.

In Cleveland, Ohio, meat-eaters have declared a boycott on the meat dealers. More than 20,000 Clevelanders are already in the movement and they assert with great confidence that their abstinence is certain to bring down the price of meat. The weakness of their position is that it is not the local dealer who is responsible for the high prices, and it is the local dealer with whom they are waging a war of abnegation. The packers who supply the retailers can hardly be affected by any such movement unless it becomes almost national.

The meat trust is a child of railroad favoritism. There is no economical reason whatever for the great packing plants. No one can demonstrate why Mitchell people should expect to have live stock shipped from near Mitchell to Sioux City to be killed and the meat shipped back to Mitchell to be eaten. In every such transaction there is an unnecessary transportation expense. The meat consumed in Mitchell's territory should be taken from the live stock produced in Mitchell's territory and thus the cost of sending stock from 150 to 200 miles to have it slaughtered would be saved.

Any one who is at all familiar with the business of the great packers knows that, prior to the passage of the Elkins anti-rebate law and the Elkins rate law, they received huge sums from the railway companies in the way of rebates. What rebates to make. The private car, which the railroad companies paid the packers for the privilege of hauling their cars, was made possible only by the railroad companies. The rebates were paid in the form of "kickbacks" and were a large factor in the profits of the packers. The private car, which the railroad companies paid the packers for the privilege of hauling their cars, was made possible only by the railroad companies.

The distribution that is necessary in order to change live stock into dressed meat delivered to the door of the consumer, freight rates of necessity are a large factor. And when a combination of packers could obtain transportation for a fraction of the sum paid by an independent, it was inevitable that the "meat trust" should appear. The fortunes quickly made by Morris, Armour, Swift and others bear out the statements that can be made by any one who knows the real details of the packing business, that the profits are simply immense. These profits, we believe further, are, in part at least, responsible for the increase in the cost of meat and we are satisfied, notwithstanding the government's report of a few years ago, that they are unreasonable and unwarranted.

It might be asked why, if the business is profitable, others do not enter it. But it requires capital to operate packing plants on a large scale, and to make it any other than a speculation in the business. Any one who will not invest his capital in the business, but who is content to speculate, is bound to lose. The business is a hazardous one, and the competition with the established packers is a very keen one. The business is a hazardous one, and the competition with the established packers is a very keen one.

DOINGS OF A NEIGHBOR

Mt. Vernon, Jan. 25.—M. C. Betts is recovering from his hard siege of small pox.

The Rebekah ladies met with grand success at the basket social last Saturday evening. Every one turned out and W. W. Davis knows how to sell far less attractive things than dainty lunch baskets put up by pretty girls. The consequences were proceeds of over \$80. The ladies served hot coffee, and the evening was enjoyably spent in cards and snitch games.

Miss Corker, assistant principal of the high school and pupils took a sleigh ride out to Joe Pollard's farm, four miles northwest of town, last Thursday night. The evening was pleasantly passed in playing games and music until a late hour when Mrs. Pollard served a delicious lunch, after which the happy young party departed for their homes.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Will McMackin, Thursday, Jan. 20, a daughter.

Don't forget the club dance next Friday evening. Koolish orchestra. The school children have been busy selling Gen. W. H. H. Beadle tags after school the last week.

G. W. Dougherty has purchased the building on west Main street formerly occupied by Pollock's saloon. School was dismissed Tuesday and the school house given a thorough fumigating. The teachers and pupils took advantage of the opportunity and spent the day out of doors filling their lungs with pure fresh air.

J. L. Morgan, of Mitchell, was in town Saturday tuning and repairing pianos.

Several Mt. Vernonites are planning on taking in the opera at Mitchell Tuesday night.

Between hauling ice and hard coal the dray lines are kept busy these days.

Don't miss seeing the comet before it is too late. Between 7 and 9 o'clock in the evening it is at its best.

Quincy Lee Morrow, temperance lecturer, spoke to a large audience at the opera house Sunday night.

NEWS FROM LANE

Lane, Jan. 25.—E. H. Wood, a pioneer settler in this place and part owner of the town site, has sold his lots and other interests to banker W. R. Hubbard. Mr. Wood's fine residence has been purchased by Mr. Thompson, the new banker who has an interest in the Citizens Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Wood and children will move to Pierre about May 1st, where Mr. Wood will go into the banking and real estate business.

A. E. Kennedy of Wessington Springs was in town last week meeting old friends. He is manager of the Hayes Lucas Lumber Co. yards in this town.

The revival meetings are still in progress and a number of conversions reported. The roads are quite good now and many come in from the country to hear Rev. Edgar, who is an interesting speaker.

The local Odd Fellow lodge held a social for members and their families last Thursday evening that was a very fine affair. Members came from far and near and the hall was comfortably filled with a jolly crowd. The supper was in charge of a committee and Brother N. W. Peterson was chief cook, and many said they had never partaken of quite so good a dish of oysters. D. A. Derrick and son furnished violin and piano music that was splendid and very much enjoyed by all present. The matter of instituting a Rebekah lodge was considered and about 40 names secured for the proposed charter.

Henry Schoen and family intend to leave in a short time for a month's visit with relatives in Arkansas. Should they like that country real well is quite probable they will conclude to reside there in the future.

Our farmers are marketing a good deal of grain these days and our merchants all report a nice trade. The high prices on everything the farmer has to sell is great.

We understand that county auditor H. O. Refvem now owns a couple of business buildings on Main street in this place, having traded land in Minnesota for the same.

The snow has been melting the past few days, and there are many who are glad to see it go.

Mr. and Mrs. Irens, living 12 miles south of here drove in and attended the Odd Fellows banquet last Thursday night. They formerly lived in Wisconsin where they enjoyed attending their home lodges.

Miss the snow has settled, the work of building soon is going on all around. Mrs. R. B. Smith and son, Lawrence, are home from their visit to Detroit and Wisconsin.

Dr. Rantz is intending to leave for Pine County in a day or two to look over that country with a view of lo-

outing an office and securing some timber land.

They do say that W. L. Smith is the happiest man in town since moving into his elegant residence in east Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. McCurdy, of Woonsocket, have been visiting with relatives and friends here the past week. Merchant O. W. Anderson recently made a visit to his old home in Wisconsin and while he reports a grand good time, still the snow was so deep it was about impossible to get around much. Oliver thinks this part of South Dakota is good enough for him, and this writer agrees with him.

NEWS FROM ALPENA

Alpena, Jan. 25.—Rev. John Kaye spent a few days in Aberdeen last week, returning to his parish at Alpena last Friday.

E. J. Milliken, of Sidney, Neb. is spending a few days in Alpena looking after new clients in his land business at Sidney. Mr. Milliken is looking fine, so the country at the extreme west of Nebraska must agree with him.

Roy Triplet has been unable to get down town for several days as he is seriously sick. Throat trouble seems to be the complaint.

Quite a serious accident happened at the school house last Friday. The boys got to playing in the snow and this led to throwing pieces, and as sometimes happens, some one picked up a piece of ice and threw it at one of his smaller playmates. The one at whom it was thrown, Fred Bryant, failed to see the missile coming and it struck him across the eye. It was feared for some time that his sight was impaired but he is now recovering nicely.

The younger people of the town held a social dance last Friday evening.

Rev. Kaye entertained a number of the young people of the town last Friday evening.

Mrs. Harry Smith visited at Woonsocket between trains Monday.

Geo. McMillan left Alpena with a car load of stock for Sioux City last Saturday returning Monday evening on the passenger.

Mr. Yale, agent for the Columbia Elevator Co., which has a house at this place, arrived in town Monday to close a deal in which his company is to dispose of the elevator to local parties. Mr. Allen, who has been buying for the Columbia is, we understand, to buy for the new firm.

The announcement has been made that the post office at Alpena is now a third class office and is known as a presidential office. The receipts we understand, for 1909 reached nearly to the \$2,000 mark. This is a good showing of the business done in our little city.

A. E. Smith, of the firm of Tadlock & Smith, of Sioux City, has been in the city for a few days looking after interests here.

The high school students are working hard this week preparing for the home talent play which they are to give in the hall this coming Friday evening. Something good is expected for the school has some very fine talent at its command.

Lem Winters arrived in the city on the evening passenger Monday.

Mrs. Schamber has been visiting at home for the last week and last Sunday Rob journeyed in that direction planning to bring his wife home.

PROHIBITIONISTS CONFERENCE.

A county conference of the prohibition party was held at Odd Fellows hall this afternoon and was attended by about twenty-five ladies and gentlemen, and which was presided over by Quincy Lee Morrow. The morning session of the conference was abandoned and the meeting was not started until 1 o'clock. Mrs. Julius Johnson, president of the Equal Suffrage Association was present and spoke to the men and women on the question. Mr. Morrow also spoke on the temperance question and then took up the election of the county officers. J. S. Wilson was re-elected county chairman, Mr. Davy as secretary and Mr. Smart as treasurer. Mr. Morrow announced that the state prohibition convention would be held at Sioux Falls on Feb. 23 to name the candidates who are to be voted for at the June primary, it being the policy of the party to put up an entire state ticket. An effort is to be made to secure the attendance of a full delegation from all parts of the state.

She Had Enough. An Mrs. May of Birchdale, Corners, was having the exhibition hall of the county fair a man stepped out of the booth and accosted her. "Won't you enter?" said he, "and see the starting of the horse races." Mrs. May shook her head, with a smile, however, for she is a courteous person. "I'm obliged to you," she said, "but my bag is full of samples now."

TO LOWER COAL RATES

Those From Black Hills and Wyoming East Investigated by Railroad Commission.

Rapid City, S. D., Jan. 25.—The state board of railroad commissioners has taken up a matter of vital interest to the residents of the entire western half of South Dakota—the securing of an adjustment of the present freight rates on coal, wood and lumber from the Black Hills and from eastern Wyoming adjacent to the Black Hills to points in western South Dakota as far east as the Missouri river.

The matter recently was called to the attention of the board by Governor Vessey and by residents of the western half of the state. As an illustration of the unjustness of the present freight rates, Governor Vessey cites the recent purchase of three carloads of Sheridan, Wyo., coal for the state house at Pierre. The shipment amounted in the aggregate to 107 tons, and cost in the aggregate in the mines the sum of \$125.15. The freight on three carloads was \$576.05. Because of this the present rates are declared to be prohibitive.

With the present rates in effect the business of the Black Hills lum-

bermen and saw mill men with residents of the town west of the Missouri river is seriously affected, as it is found that the rate on lumber from the Twin Cities to Fort Pierre—only a part of the same distance. Wood also can be shipped to Fort Pierre and surrounding towns from surrounding states cheaper than it can be shipped from the Black Hills, where there are large supplies.

George Rice and Dr. W. G. Smith, members of the state board of railroad commissioners, have been in Chicago during the past two or three days conferring with the railroad companies concerned to see if they cannot secure an adjustment of the rates. It is expected that upon their return to South Dakota they will have an important announcement to make to the residents of western South Dakota in reference to the matter.

Witness My Hand.

In the early days only a few scholars knew how to write. It was then customary to sign a document by smearing the hand with ink and impressing it upon the paper, accompanied by the words, "Witness my hand." Afterward the seal was introduced as a substitute for the hand mark and was used with the words above quoted, the two forming the signature. This is the origin of the expression as used in modern documents.

New Invention For the Deaf



A minute pocket telephone which enables deaf to hear clearly. Free trial at our store.

J. H. Ferris Druggist

Phone 182. MITCHELL, S. D.

Want Ads Pay

Importers of Percheron, Belgian and Shire Stallions

Fargo, North Dakota, Rear of Milwaukee Depot

We have over 40 high class Draft Stallions now on hand, a bigger or better lot it would be impossible to find in any barn in America. Farmers should not overlook this fact. Considering the high price of horses can you afford to be without a Stallion in your locality? By coming direct to our barn at Fargo, you will save all middleman's profits, and be able to buy from the owner a Draft Stallion with a guarantee that is right and prices fair and reasonable. Don't delay buying now, you get better pick and can buy cheaper than in the spring. Small Profits and Quick Returns. Won champion on Percherons at State Fairs Fargo, Des Moines, Milwaukee, etc.

ROBT. BURGESS & LUKEN, Fargo, North Dakota, Rear of Milwaukee Depot

References: First Nat. Bank, Fargo; Hundreds of Customers.

Our Great Clearance Sale

Still continues and we have some rare Bargains to offer you. All of our Hart Schaffner & Marx Suits and Overcoats at

25 Per Cent DISCOUNT



\$25 Suits and Overcoats - 18.75

\$20 Suits and Overcoats - 15.00

\$28 Suits and Overcoats - 21.00

We have a few all-wool Suits worth from \$18 to \$20 that we are going to close out at \$13.50

If you want a Suit for rough wear see these. They're extra good.

All Our Manhattan and Wilson Bros. Shirts at Sale Prices

\$2.50 Values at - \$2.00
\$2.00 Values at - \$1.50
\$1.50 Values at - \$1.15
\$1.00 Values at - 80 cents

These Shirts are Plain and Pleated Bosoms. All New Goods.

If You Need Clothing Come and See Us. We'll Save You Money

W. C. METCALF, The Corner Clothier